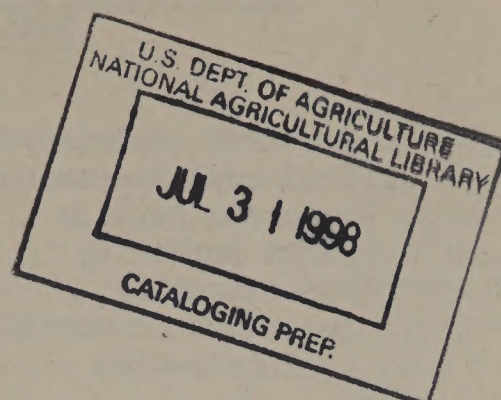


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REPORT TO:

Members and Alternates
Family Farm Policy Review Subcommittee

FROM:

The Task Force

SUBJECT:

Summary of the

FAMILY FARM POLICY REVIEW

United States
Department of
Agriculture



National Agricultural Library

Agricultural
Bureau of Agri
Cooperative Ex
Commodity Exch
Farm Credit Ad
Federal Crop I
Farmers Home
Forest Service
Office of Info
Production and

Rural Electrification Administration
Soil Conservation Service

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union

National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

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THE FAMILY FARM POLICY REVIEW

Background

The Family Farm Policy Review grew out of the decision of the Secretary of Agriculture to find out through a comprehensive policy review how well the programs of the Department of Agriculture are serving family farmers of our nation, and how they can be improved better to protect and preserve the traditional American pattern of family farming.

Over the past several years the President and the Congress have laid increasing emphasis on proper management of our Government activities and have left no doubt that management should be improved wherever possible. The President, by Executive Order 10072, dated July 29, 1949, and the Congress, by Title X of the Classification Act of 1949 (P.L. 429), have directed that each department and agency head systematically review the effectiveness of his agency's programs and the economy of its operations. The Executive Order and Title X are aimed at achieving continuous improvement of Federal programs and operations through systematic review and appraisal by the officials who are responsible for carrying out these programs. The House Committee on Appropriations has repeatedly encouraged better management and program improvement through insistence upon continuing appraisal of program effectiveness.

As one means of appraisal and examination of all the programs of the Department and as a part of its continuing study of ways of improving its services to agriculture, the Secretary of Agriculture proposed the Family Farm Policy Review. Through the adoption of this proposal, the review was initiated, and all of the Department programs have been held up to the light of scrutiny -- not only Department scrutiny but for public scrutiny as well.

Because appraisal of effectiveness of programs is so inseparably linked to any study of efficiency of operation, an opportunity was provided for participation in this review by the very people such programs were intended to serve -- the farmers themselves. Service to the farm family on the family farm was made the common denominator of the review. The Secretary made it plain that he considered it not only desirable but necessary to relate such an appraisal of the Department's programs to the family farm by testifying:

"Through all the pressures of mobilization and stepped-up production, we must safeguard the traditional family-farm principle as a valuable American institution. The family farm has always been the backbone of our democracy. Our family farm pattern is a world symbol of democracy on the land. It is America's answer to communism's false propaganda among the underprivileged rural peoples of other countries. We have only to look at other parts of the globe today to realize how communism has been abetted by deep unrest traceable primarily to insecure and inequitable land tenure."

At another time he was responsible for saying:

"The American family farm pattern is one of the Nation's main exhibits in the world struggle for man's minds and one of the examples we hold out for all the world to see. We seek to extend the benefits and advantages of our system to rural populations elsewhere. To be successful in this, we should make sure that our own pattern is the best possible one. Hence, we must hold the mirror up to ourselves, while we urge people of other countries to view the American family farm picture."

How the Review Was Conducted

A Family Farm Policy Review Subcommittee was set up composed of Department officials and representatives of farm and church organizations and the land-grant colleges. This subcommittee, through a number of study groups, conducted a review of the policies and programs of each of the agencies of the Department and developed tentative recommendations for improving services on family farms.

These recommendations included some that could be put into effect within existing authority and others that would require additional legislation. All of these tentative recommendations were reproduced in a Provisional Report.

This work, however, was considered only a start in the direction the review should take. A request was then sent to all of the State and County Agricultural Mobilization Committees asking them to arrange in their states and counties the widest possible participation of farmers and interested groups in the review. A limited number of the Provisional Reports were transmitted with this request.

The State Agricultural Mobilization Committees were requested to solicit the aid of non-departmental groups to help develop plans for use by the County Agricultural Mobilization Committees in carrying out the review. It was suggested that they arrange for county-wide or community-wide meetings and devise other methods of obtaining the views of farmers and others interested in agriculture regarding how the activities of the Department could better serve the family farm. The widest possible latitude for these discussion meetings was encouraged.

At the conclusion of these meetings each County Agricultural Mobilization Committee was asked to submit a report for the county in the following form:

1. The recommended changes and improvements in each of the agency programs.
 - a. Portions of the programs that should be continued on present basis.
 - b. Portions of the programs that should be eliminated or abolished.
 - c. Recommended changes in the programs.

2. For each recommendation to indicate the reasons why the farmers of the county think that the recommended change would be an improvement over present program or policy.
3. Suggest new programs that should be considered to meet needs not now being met.

Meetings were held in practically all of the counties of the nation. Many counties had more than one meeting, for a total of more than 7,000. Attendance at the meetings varied greatly from very few to as many as 1,000. Total attendance was over 200,000. Of this figure, an actual record was made of 196,803. However, there was additional attendance in 860 counties which did not record in their reports the exact number of people who participated in their meetings.

The number of meetings held in the counties for the Family Farm Policy Review varied as follows:

- In 2,260 counties there were one to five meetings
- In 312 counties there were six to ten meetings
- In 69 counties there were eleven to fifteen meetings
- In 32 counties there were sixteen to twenty-seven meetings

While the attendance of the Farm Bureau, Grange, and Farmers Union members was not recorded in all reports, this information was recorded by 939 counties. Farm Bureau members were reported as participating at meetings in 826 of these 939 counties, Grange members in 255 counties, and Farmers Union members in 184. Members of non-farm organizations were sprinkled through the meetings, the reports showing bankers in attendance in 228 counties, other businessmen in 372, and ministers and members of church groups in 226 counties.

newspapers, Parent-Teacher Associations, civic organizations and others were represented in a scattered number of counties. Almost all counties indicated that the meetings were attended by personnel of the Department while agricultural teachers were reported as attending meetings in 1,261 counties.

Reports were prepared in nearly all of the counties (2,979) and submitted to the State Agricultural Mobilization Committees who reviewed them and transmitted them with their own report to the Secretary's office. Reports also were received from some individuals and from a few farm and church organizations.

Since in nearly all States no questionnaires or outlines of any kind were used, and only enough copies of the Provisional Report developed in Washington were issued to supply discussion leaders, the resulting reports reflected the greatest possible variety of recommendations. Even though copies of the Provisional Report were sent to the field simply for the purpose of stimulating discussion in community or county meetings, this Report was sometimes misunderstood. It was looked on in some counties as a set of recommendations proposed to the farmers for their approval or disapproval even though no one at the Washington level had such intention. In these counties, its purpose of providing a starting point for discussion was not achieved.

How the Reports Were Summarized

The large volume of reports received was presented to a meeting of the Family Farm Policy Review Subcommittee. It was suggested that perhaps the non-departmental members would desire to make an independent summary and analysis in addition to whatever use the Department or its agencies would make of the reports. At the suggestion of the non-departmental members, the subcommittee decided, however, to have Department personnel summarize the reports.

A Task Force was then set up to guide the job. This Task Force obtained assistance from the various agencies of the Department in summarizing the reports.

After considerable deliberation and examination of the material, it was decided as a first step to summarize all the state reports and 10 percent of the county reports in order to get a better grasp of the probable contents of all of the reports. When this had been done a Preliminary Report was made to the Family Farm Policy Review Subcommittee. The subcommittee requested the Task Force to have all of the county reports read and summarized. The information developed by the 10 percent run was used to build a coding plan for summarizing the rest of the reports. Reports were received from 2,979 counties. Only 92, some of which were urban counties, failed to send in reports. Reports from 287 counties could not be tabulated. These included 233 that contained no indication of consensus, three in which the meetings were not open to the public, and 51 that contained no recommendations at all. The coding was completed and the data were punched on IBM cards and tabulated. Each comment or recommendation which fell into a miscellaneous category was noted in the usual way and was also recorded on a 3 x 5 card and placed in a special file. This makes it possible, by examining the cards, to ascertain the actual comments included in the miscellaneous categories in the tables. The county tables include the comments and recommendations found in the 2,692 county reports. The tables may be used as an actual master index to all of the reports, making it possible for an analyst to work back to the original source of information for any category.

Interpreting the Results

In interpreting the recommendations made, a few points should be kept in mind. It was the intent of the review to stimulate thinking and widespread

discussion among farmers and others interested in agriculture and to obtain recommendations with respect to the programs of the Department. Therefore, State and County Agricultural Mobilization Committees were asked to hold open meetings to encourage wide participation. Obviously those attending these meetings would not make up a cross-section sample of all farm people. Therefore, it is not possible through the use of statistical methods to expand the results to represent all agricultural thinking; as was expected, the results cannot be so measured. There was considerable variation, county by county, in the amount of publicity given the meetings before they were held, and consequently there was considerable variation in attendance. The recommendations summarized represent a consensus of those attending these meetings and may or may not represent the views of all farmers. It should also be kept in mind that statements made in meetings for which no indication of consensus was recorded were not included.

When studying the tables from an agency standpoint, several things should be kept in mind. (a) The individual agency tables contain the bulk of the information for each agency. (b) Each agency should search other agencies' tables and the tables for the Department as a whole. It is important to do this not only for information on related functions, but also because the reader may find recommendations listed for one agency which he may feel should have been listed under another agency. If a county requested that an agency introduce an activity, it was tabulated for that agency even though such an activity was, or ordinarily would be, part of another agency's program. In addition, the special card file can be searched for details with respect to the miscellaneous items. (c) If an agency needs further information, it should consider these tabulations as a "master reference" index. The summarization was done in a manner that

permits a quick means of providing the names of the counties that made any particular recommendation, and of tracing items back to the original reports.

State Reports

The State Reports were summarized. The State tables and the data obtained in the 10 percent run of county reports were used in building codes and developing methods for summarizing all of the county reports. Since in the main the information in the State reports was also found in the county reports, no additional analysis of the State reports is included herein.

Individual and Group Reports

In addition to the county and State reports, the Secretary of Agriculture received 49 letters from individuals and 26 reports from groups, including five national groups. These letters and reports frequently contained comments and suggestions about the Family Farm Policy Review or about the Department of Agriculture as a whole, but only a few of them contained specific recommendations concerning the programs of the various agencies of the Department.

An examination of the individual letters and group reports indicated a wide range in the matters covered. However, the same recommendation or comment was rarely made by more than one or two of the individuals or groups. The most frequently mentioned comment by both individuals and groups was approval of the Family Farm Policy Review. About a dozen individuals and seven groups expressed approval of the idea of the Department carrying on this activity. A half dozen individuals indicated their belief that because of limited attendance or domination of meetings by particular organizations the review did not reach a representative cross-section of all farmers, and four questioned the motives behind the review or expressed their belief that it was politically inspired.

The reports of the five national groups contained about five times as many recommendations as the other 21 group reports combined and are worthy of individual study. The comments and recommendations made by individuals and groups are available for further study since they were recorded on cards as were the miscellaneous items in the county reports.

Highlights of Agency Tables

The following is a brief presentation of the more significant items in the county summary of tables for each agency. For those who desire a more precise understanding of the results of the review the use of the full tables is recommended.

Agricultural Research Administration

Approximately 55 percent of the county reports, or 1,504, mentioned the Agricultural Research Administration, and 1,137 of them made comments or recommendations concerning its programs. Approximately 73 percent (831) of the 1,137 county reports indicated general approval of the program as a whole, or approval with some change recommended. A contrary view was expressed by three counties which want the program discontinued, two counties which reported general dissatisfaction with the program, and one county which reported general dissatisfaction with certain phases of the program.

The general theme of the counties reporting was one of expanding research programs. Concerning research in general 122 counties called for an expanded program. Ninety-two counties called for general expansion in the field of research relating to pest and disease control, 27 counties asked for expansion of such research, particularly with respect to wheat and milo, 17 counties cited the need for research on livestock diseases, and 13 counties mentioned the need for research on control of noxious weeds. Eighteen out of 25 counties commenting upon the meat inspection service recorded general approval of the program, and 12 counties asked for more rigid meat inspection laws.

Research on marketing and processing brought forth comments from 81 counties of which 49 called in general terms for expansion in the field of marketing and new uses of farm products. Thirteen county reports mentioned the need for more research in the field of on-the-farm or cooperative processing.

Expanded research on crops was requested by 59 counties, and 47 counties asked for expansion in research on livestock and forage, although 7 counties were recorded as opposing livestock and forage research.

Expansion and development of research relating to farm mechanization was asked for by 20 counties whereas 11 counties felt that this was a responsibility of private industry.

The need for research in the field of tenant-landlord relations was favored by 10 counties with 7 counties voicing opposition.

In the matter of acquisition of farm lands for defense purposes, 20 counties felt that investigations were desirable to forestall taking such land unnecessarily, while 4 counties were recorded as being in opposition to this type of research.

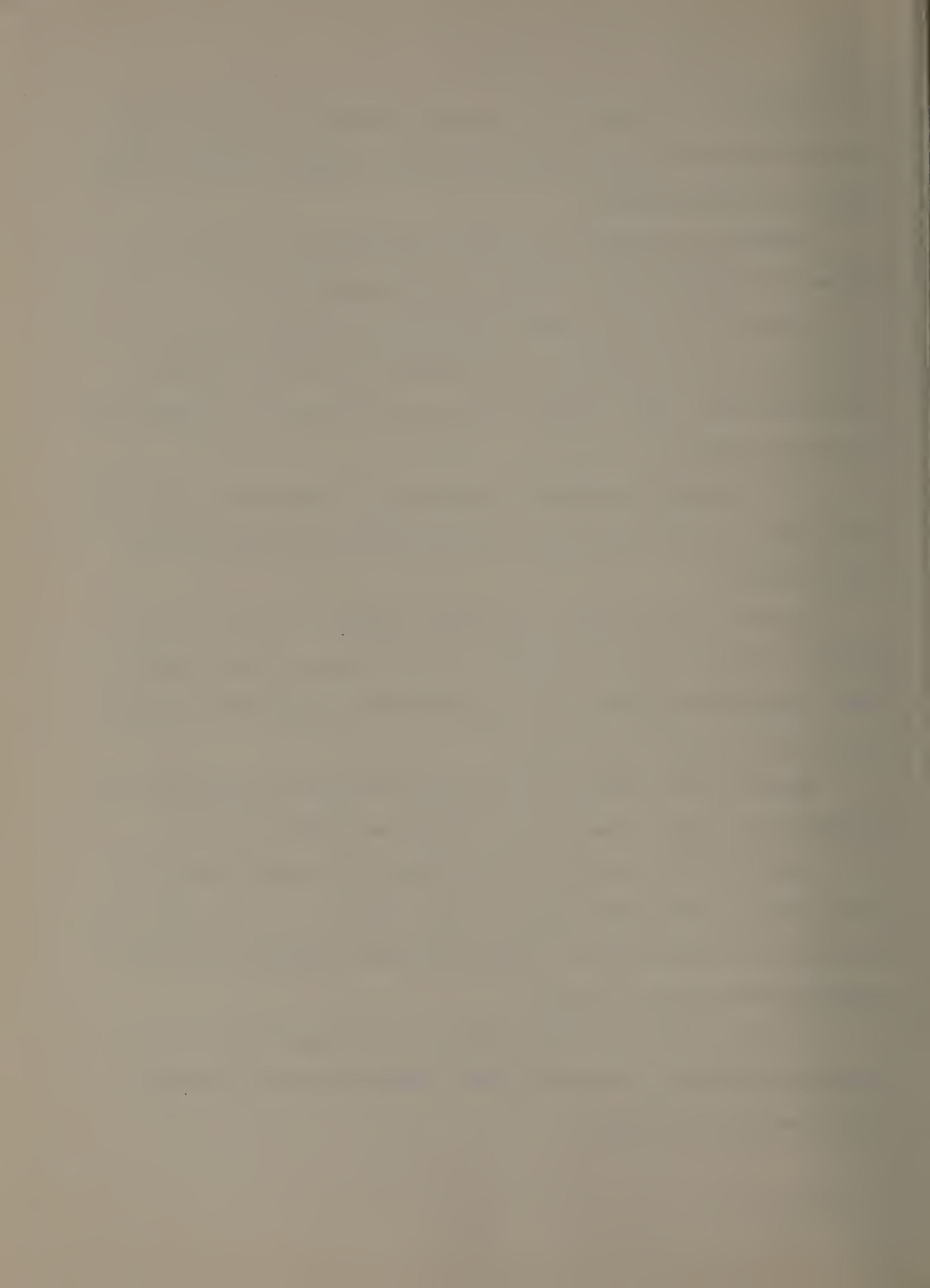
The 30 counties reporting on home management research were about evenly divided as to the need for expansion in this field and opposition to this form of research.

An instance in the field of research in which the greatest number of counties commenting were in opposition concerned the use of pilot research farms. Eighty-three counties expressed opposition to this form of research whereas only 49 were in favor of it.

Research on the weather or the relation of weather to agriculture was considered desirable by 26 counties as compared to 4 which opposed it.

In the field of information and publicity, 75 counties in 97 which made comments on this matter called for more effective and better information and for its wider distribution. Twenty-six counties mentioned the need for receiving information more quickly.

The desire for more research along local or regional lines was expressed by 48 counties, and 17 asked for a continuation or an increase in local determination of policy.



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Bureau of Agricultural Economics

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics was mentioned in 1,322 county reports, or about half of those received. However, in 400 of them the mention took the form merely of reporting that they did not know about the work of the agency, that it did not apply to their counties, or that they had no comments to make about the agency. In the remaining 921 county reports in which comments or recommendations were made, a general approval of the program of the agency, with or without some changes, was expressed in 757. On the other hand, six reports indicated general dissatisfaction with the program, three with certain phases, five recommended that it be discontinued, and another that it should be discontinued unless some changes were made.

While no single specific comment or recommendation about the program of this bureau was contained in more than five percent of the county reports received, 105 reports, the largest number making any single recommendation, proposed that improved techniques be used for collecting crop and livestock data.

With respect to reports and publications regarding crop and livestock data, 31 counties recommended changing or improving the timing of reports; 26 that distribution be expanded; 21 that the reports should be simplified, consolidated or made more usable; and 19 that the method of distributing them be improved. Nine counties reported that speculators benefit from reports more than farmers, and eight recommended that certain crop and livestock reports be eliminated.

In the case of economic and marketing reports, 45 counties recommended that the reports should be changed, revised, or the distribution improved; 29 that the data or collection of data should be improved, and 22 that the reports should be simplified or consolidated and made more usable.

A few scattered reports, usually representing less than a half of one percent of the counties, contained other comments, the largest number (16) recommending more research on prices and marketing. Fourteen recommended curtailment of the bureau's program, reduction of expenses or personnel, or elimination of some research or reports; 12 said that more information was needed about the agency or its services; and 7 recommended strengthening cooperative relations with States and counties.

Three counties favored while ten opposed the idea of setting up local farm-scale testing of experimental results, while eight favored and two opposed studying obstacles to rapid adoption of improved practices. Nine favored and four opposed conducting or expanding research on improving land tenure and leasing arrangements, and seven favored while one opposed studying obstacles to attaining and maintaining farm ownership.

Eleven favored and five opposed studying the effects of extending social security to farm people; nine reports favored while four opposed development of standards for comparing family farms regarding efficiency of production and levels of living; and seven favored while two opposed expanding research on labor supply, labor requirements, or labor-saving practices.

Commodity Exchange Authority

The Commodity Exchange Authority was mentioned in 1,129 county reports. However, 596 reports either indicated no comment or stated that the program was not operating in the county or was not applicable to the county. Out of the remaining 533 reports, 509 indicated general approval of the service as a whole or called for continuation of the program both with and without some change. Five county reports expressed the consensus that the program should be discontinued. Twenty-two counties made comments about the general coverage of the agency's program and all of these called for expansion or strengthening of the agency.

Under the heading of general operation, 17 counties out of 28 reporting expressed the feeling that the agency's activities should include all agricultural commodities.

With respect to the regulatory function of the agency, 52 counties made some comment and one-half of them asked for more strict enforcement and more consideration to the use of criminal action. Twenty-seven counties asked for subpoena power for CEA investigators.

With respect to information and publicity, all of the 17 counties reporting mentioned the need for more information about the agency and its functions.

Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service was mentioned in 2,101 county reports, and 1,991 of these reports contained comments or recommendations about Extension Service activities. Over sixteen hundred (1,637) counties expressed general approval of the program or asked for continuation with or without change. A contrary view was expressed by one county which asked for discontinuance of the program unless some changes were made, another county expressed general dissatisfaction with the program, and a third county reported dissatisfaction with some phase of the program.

Over one-fourth of the county reports had something to say about coverage of the program. The need for more stress on 4-H Club work was mentioned by 130 counties, and 129 counties agreed on the need for reaching more farms, especially small farms and those in remote areas. More farm visits were asked for in 86 reports. Programs working for the improvement of livestock, poultry or insect and weed control were stressed by 56 counties as being needed as were more soil testing laboratories and soil analysis mentioned in 58 county reports. The need for work on specific farm practices was voiced by 45 counties, and 26 counties pointed up the need for establishing or expanding experiment stations.

With regard to personnel and personnel practices, 470 counties had something to say. The largest number, 151, expressed a need for more personnel without specifying the kind of personnel needed. More personnel for 4-H Club work was requested by 77 counties, additional personnel for home demonstration work by 74 counties, and 53 counties mentioned the need for an assistant county agent or more assistance for the county agent. Twenty-seven county reports mentioned the need for raising salaries of personnel. The need

for improving operating procedures (too many meetings, agents have too many responsibilities, agents have too many out-of-town activities, agents should have a longer tenure in the county, etc.) was stressed by 73 counties as was improvement of office management procedures, including definite office hours, better location for office, and more secretarial help in 43 counties.

The need for more funds to carry out the Extension Service program was mentioned by 70 counties, and 25 counties indicated that the service would not improve by getting increased funds from county taxes instead of from the Farm Bureau. More than half of the 216 counties commenting upon information and publicity called for more information or for better information about all USDA activities. The need for improved and faster methods of getting information to the people was cited by 46 counties, up-to-date information with better timing as to seasons was called for by 38 counties, and 29 counties asked for more information on specific programs such as 4-H Club work.

In the field of education, 242 counties commented upon one or more phases. Over one-third of these counties outlined the need for more educational work and assistance without specifying the nature. Also, over one-third did ask for more demonstration activities, and over one-fourth asked for expanded educational work on such specific problems as livestock, marketing, and insect control.

Over 70 percent (116) of the 160 county reports which had something to say about local participation and determination of policy felt that there should be more of it at the county level. However, there were 29 county reports which said there was enough local control and to continue without change. Thirty-four counties mentioned the need for more stress on local problems.

In the matter of relationship between the Extension Service and farm organizations, 106 counties out of 205 reporting indicated that the Service should be independent of farm organizations or should function with no financial ties to any farm organization. On the other hand, 28 counties expressed the view that no unfair business competition resulted from agreements with the Farm Bureau, and 85 counties reported that the Service should have a relationship with farm organizations or that such a relationship was good.

Farm Credit Administration

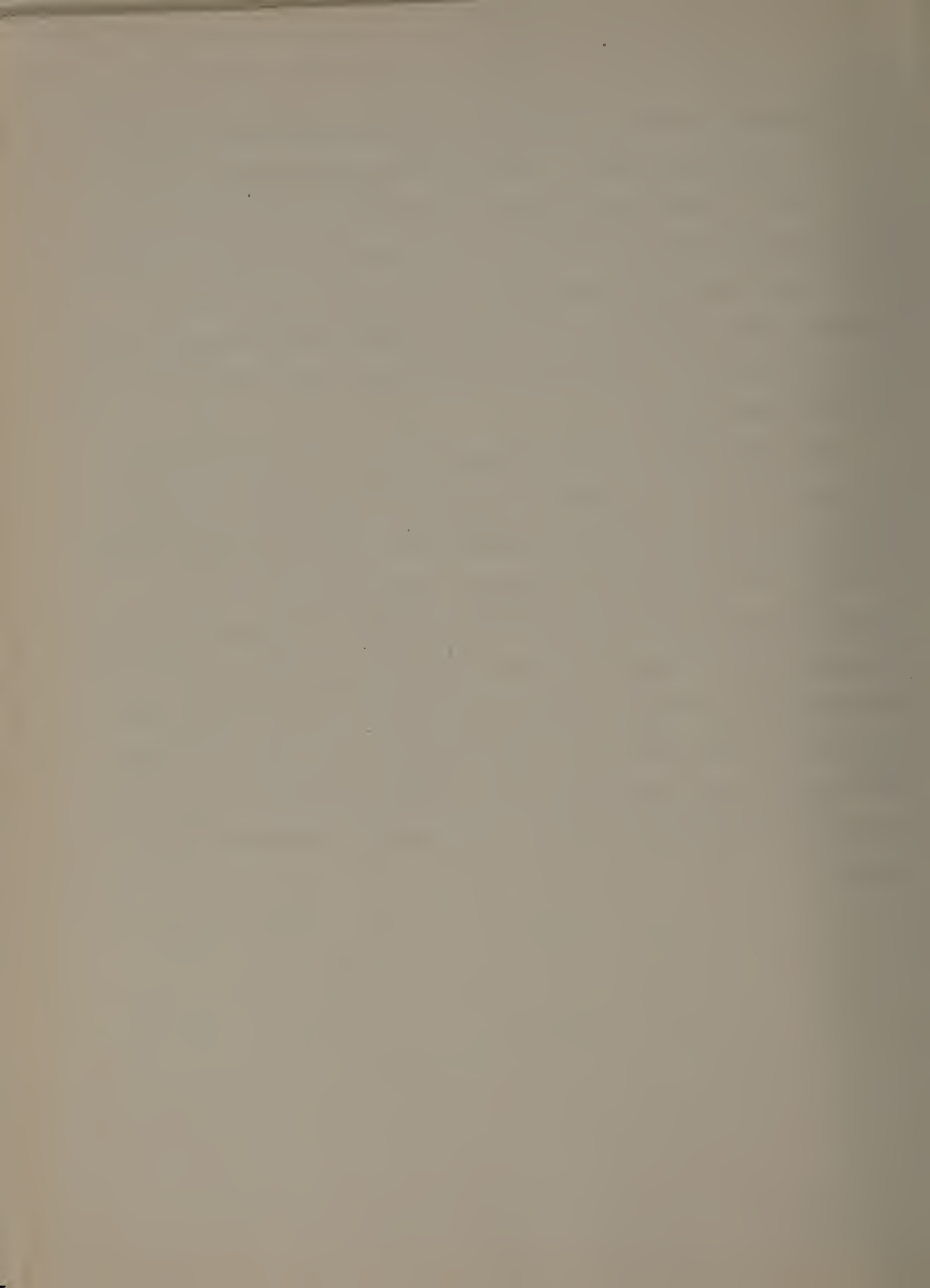
A little more than half of the county reports, or 1,672, mentioned the FCA, and about 1,420 of them made recommendations concerning its program. Over a thousand (1,051) of these 1,420 expressed a general approval of the program with or without some change. One county indicated general dissatisfaction with the program, two dissatisfaction with certain phases, while three reports recommended that the program be discontinued.

Reports from 57 counties stated a need for more information about the program, 40 reports recommended expansion in general, 26 expansion of the Production Credit program, 17 expansion of Federal Land Banks, and six expansion of the program of the National Farm Loan Associations. Fifteen reports recommended expansion of the programs of the agency in the direction of serving young farmers, small farms or family-size farms, while eight recommended re-establishment of Land Bank Commissioner Loans. Differences of opinion were expressed about intermediate term loans, 36 favoring them and 34 reports being opposed.

Twenty counties recommended speeding up service and a few others suggested appointing representatives of the Production Credit Associations in each county to make services more readily available. Consolidation of divisions within the FCA and providing one-stop credit service in the field were similar recommendations, the former made in 19 counties and the latter in 18. Nineteen counties recommended that the Farm Credit Administration and seven that the Federal Land Banks be independent agencies separate from the Department of Agriculture.

A number of counties recommended more policy determination by farmers or farmer ownership and control. Forty-four made general statements to this effect, while 13 applied such statements specifically to Federal Land Banks, nine to National Farm Loan Associations, and six to Production Credit Associations. Twenty-four counties recommended that Government capital in the Production Credit Associations be retired, and 18 made general statements with regard to retirement of capital without mentioning the particular part of the FGA to which they referred.

The largest number of recommendations had to do with loan regulations, particularly with those pertaining to appraisals. Reports from 136 counties contained a general recommendation that land appraisals were too low or should be brought in line with present conditions. Similar recommendations were directed to the Federal Land Banks in 108 cases and to the National Farm Loan Associations in 46 reports. Longer term credit was recommended in 67 counties, and particularly for forestry purposes in 20 and for livestock in 25. It was proposed in 51 county reports that loan limits be raised or that more liberal loans be made. Such recommendations were directed specifically toward Federal Land Banks in 39 counties and toward Production Credit Associations in 13 counties.



Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

At the time of the review Federal all-risk crop insurance was available to farmers in only 727 counties. In 632 of these counties insurance was available only on a single crop of major significance in the county, while in the remaining 95 counties having a more diversified type of agriculture, insurance was available on a combination of the crops of major significance in the county.

Of the 1,513 county reports which mentioned this agency, 1,092 disclosed some discussion of the crop insurance program other than a statement of no comment or that the program was not applicable to the county. A consensus of general approval of the program, or of approval with expression for continuation with some change, was indicated in 668 reports. By way of contrast, 41 counties reported general dissatisfaction with the program, 13 counties reported general dissatisfaction with some phase of the program, 40 counties reported a desire that the program be discontinued, and 18 counties wanted the program discontinued unless some changes were made. It is interesting to note that over 60 percent of the expressions of dissatisfaction and requests for discontinuance of the program came from counties that did not have a crop insurance program operating at the time of the review. Out of this disapproving group 80 percent, or 32, of the 40 counties that indicated a desire that the program be discontinued did not have an insurance program at the time.

Concerning the general scope of the program and participation in it, 162 counties reported a desire to see crop insurance expanded by making insurance available to a larger number of counties or by increased participation within existing county programs. Seventy-three counties wanted insurance

extended to all crops or to certain named crops, and 86 counties asked that a program be made available in their county.

The discussion of crop insurance in some counties led to a comparison of the single crop and multiple crop plans. This resulted in 35 county reports indicating that they favored the single crop plan of insurance as contrasted with 27 county reports which indicated that they favored the multiple crop type of insurance.

Next in size to the number of county reports expressing general approval of the program was the number which reached some conclusions about the amount of protection offered under the program and the premium cost. Almost half of the 353 county reports which contained information on these points called for an increase in the amount of protection being offered through unspecified increases in the insured coverage. Thirty-one county reports called for increases in both the amount of protection offered and the premium cost, while 23 reports expressed a consensus that the amount of protection should be raised and the premium cost lowered. Twenty-five county reports called for lower premiums without commenting on the amount of protection offered. Increased protection was also involved in 95 county recommendations that the insurance unit (area of the insured crop(s) on which any loss is adjusted) be reduced in size. Thirty-three counties asked for greater protection through discontinuance of the substitute crop provision or by asking that there be no reduction in the amount of any indemnity if a crop is not harvested or a substitute crop is planted. Eleven counties asked for increased coverage where replanting or reseeding is necessary.

Fifty-six reports expressed a feeling that more educational work and publicity on the program were needed, 35 counties expressed approval of or

asked continuance of the present plan of operation under which the program functions as a county mutual, and 28 indicated that more control and policy determination at the local level were desirable.

Farmers Home Administration

Approximately 60 percent of the county reports, or 2,100, contained some reference to the program of the Farmers Home Administration or to the work of one or more of its divisions. These included 1,817 that mentioned the program as a whole. Of these 1,817 reports, 1,714 made comments or recommendations with respect to the over-all program of the agency. Some of these reports, together with a number of additional reports that did not cover the program in general, discussed separate programs such as the operating loan and the farm ownership loan programs. Of the 1,714 that submitted recommendations or comments, 1,363 expressed a general approval of the program, with or without some changes; three reports showed dissatisfaction with the program; six proposed that it be discontinued; and seven recommended that it be discontinued unless some changes were made.

Of the 416 reports commenting on the coverage of the program, 289 recommended an expansion of the program, an increase in the number of loans, an increase in agency funds or making funds available all year. Also 35 recommended an increase in staff. Some counties recommended expansion for specific purposes such as the 48 that proposed expansion for small or part-time farmers, 47 for young farmers, and 30 for non-veterans.

In 111 reports of the 254 that discussed organization and management problems, it was recommended that a revolving fund be established in lieu of annual appropriations although 10 other counties opposed this idea. About 100 recommended a speeding up of loan processing and 22 an increase or improvement in the supervision of loans.

There were 65 reports that recommended that more information be provided to farmers regarding the services available. An increase in policy determination

and loan approval authority at the State or county level was recommended in 52 counties.

Of the 316 counties making proposals about loan regulations, 146 recommended that loan limits be raised, 98 that regulations be liberalized, 73 that appraisals be liberalized, and 30 that repayment periods be extended. On the other hand, 32 recommended increasing credit restrictions and 18 raising eligibility requirements.

In the recommendations directed more specifically to the operating loan program of the Farmers Home Administration, expansion of this program or an increase in funds in general was recommended in 52 of the 192 counties discussing coverage of the program, an increase in funds for production and subsistence loans was recommended by 49 counties, for water facility loans by 13 counties, and for other special purposes by 27.

Suggestions about organization and management were made in 38 county reports including 24 that recommended the establishment of a revolving fund, and one-third this many who proposed that the processing of loans be speeded up.

Proposals for increasing the size of loans predominated among the 404 reports discussing loan regulations. Favoring this change with respect to production and subsistence loans were 184 counties, while seven were opposed. Without mentioning the kind of loan, 73 felt that the size of loans should be increased while eight disagreed with this idea.

Extension of repayment periods in general was requested in 45 counties while 59 reports recommended such an extension in the case of production and subsistence loans. Seven were opposed. Extension of the repayment period for production loans to 10 years was recommended in 64 counties. In 54 counties the need for setting the initial payment at not over two years was indicated. Liberalization of water facilities loans also was recommended in 20 county reports.

Increases of funds for the farm ownership loan program in general and for specific types of loans were recommended as follows: in general by 85 county reports, farm purchase by 72, housing by 43, farm enlargement and development by 31, and insured mortgages by 26. Also 33 wanted the program expanded for non-veterans, 24 proposed a speeding up of the processing of loans, and 26 counties recommended more policy determination and loan approval authority at the State or county level.

Reports from 538 counties had something to say about the regulations for making farm ownership loans. A liberalization of regulations without mention of the part of the farm ownership loan program referred to was recommended by 74 counties while 47 made such recommendations with specific reference to farm housing loans. A liberalization of appraisals in general was recommended by 37 counties, and for farm purchase loans by 67. It was recommended in 215 county reports that the limits for farm purchase loans should be raised, in 76 that loan limits in general should be raised, while seven reports opposed raising loan limits on real estate.

Elimination of ten percent down payments in the case of insured loans was proposed in 96 reports. In 50 counties it was recommended that a variable payment plan be established.

Forest Service

More than half (1,519) of the county reports mentioned the program of the Forest Service, 368 of them merely stating that either there was no discussion or that the program is not applicable to the county. Of the 1,151 remaining, 886 expressed general approval of the program as a whole. Three counties indicated a general dissatisfaction with the program and four with some phases, while four counties were of the opinion that the program should be discontinued, either as a whole or in their county.

Of the 319 counties commenting on the work in forests, 146 thought the forest program including technical services ought to be expanded for farmers and for other owners of private woodlands. Also 59 counties wanted the staff of foresters expanded. While 31 stated that legislation to regulate forest practices should be expanded or strengthened, 42 opposed legislation regulating cutting or other practices on privately-owned lands.

The 33 counties which commented on watersheds expressed such opinions as "watersheds not adequately protected," "should limit timber cutting on stream headwaters," or "place watersheds under Forest Service control." It was recommended in 103 counties that fire control should be extended and improved. An increase in the supply of tree stock was proposed in 64 counties while 39 counties suggested more tree planting. In 27 county reports the suggestion was made that wildlife and recreation areas should be further developed and improved.

There were 45 counties which either disapproved land acquisition by the Forest Service or wanted publicly-held land to revert to private ownership.

Among the 81 counties that commented on grazing and ranges, a little more than 30 thought it desirable to increase reseeding or improvement of

grasses. A like number made specific suggestions pertaining to the issuance of permits.

Recommendations were made by 130 counties with respect to finances or financial arrangements. In 36 counties it was suggested that the receipts from forest products and grazing fees should be used for a variety of purposes such as developments of tourist facilities, allocation to wildlife and recreation, in 38 that increased financial aid be given to growers of trees by a system of credit, loans or taxation exemption, and in 32 counties it was proposed that the limit for timber sales which may be made without advertising be raised. There were 24 counties that wanted research increased, 53 wanted to increase education and information about the Forest Service, and 57 wanted to increase the education and information about timber and forestry.

There were 32 counties which recommended that policy determination and authority at State or county level be either established or expanded.

Office of Information

Slightly more than 40 percent of the county reports, or 1,114, mentioned the Office of Information, and 669 of them made recommendations concerning its activity. Over 80 percent (552) of these 669 expressed general approval of the agency's informational activities or asked for continuance of the agency with or without change. General dissatisfaction with certain phases of the program was expressed by 6 counties and 11 called for discontinuance of the program or discontinuance in the county. Concerning coverage of the program, 29 of the 95 counties discussing coverage asked for an expanded program, increased literature or increased distribution, and about one-third of the counties (34) called for improved distribution of information. As a contrast, 17 counties asked that the number of publications be reduced or stated that publications are a waste.

With respect to quality and content of publications, 52 counties indicated that publications should be shortened or simplified, 39 asked for revision of publications, and 23 mentioned the need for more localized information.

The major comment under the heading of new or revived functions concerned opposition to establishing information field staffs. Forty of the 56 counties reporting on this matter voiced such opposition while six counties indicated they were in favor of an information field staff.

The use of radio, television, and films as an information source was commented on by 57 counties. On the question of revival of radio-training schools seven counties felt that this should be done, while eight voiced opposition. Nineteen counties thought that expansion and improvement in

radio and tape recordings were desirable, while 6 counties voiced opposition to such expansion. Thirteen counties expressed the view that there should be an annual production of films, 15 counties called for expansion of the use of television as an informational source, and 17 counties would like to see an expanded use of films, newareels and other visual aids.

Production and Marketing Administration (program unspecified)

The Provisional Report, which was used by many counties as a guide in making their reports, discussed the FMA generally and then discussed its programs or functions specifically. For this reason the same breakdown has been used in analyzing the comments and suggestions of the counties with respect to FMA.

Counties that mentioned the Production and Marketing Administration as an agency or its programs as a group or separately, numbered 2,347, with 1,349 making recommendations with respect to the FMA as a whole. Among these 1,349 counties, 1,136 expressed general approval of the program of FMA as a whole with or without some changes. General dissatisfaction with the program was expressed by six counties and dissatisfaction with certain phases by nine. Also 18 counties recommended that the program of FMA be discontinued either nationally or in their county, and another county that it be discontinued unless some changes were made.

Of the 100 counties which commented on the information and publicity of FMA, 93 said that more was needed and that it should be improved.

The administration and management of programs was commented upon by 241 counties. Of these, 45 said that FMA needed more funds, while two-thirds this many said that FMA should economize, manage their funds better, or did not need more funds. Improvement of administration or keeping politics out was proposed in 30 counties, and 66 counties advised that more local participation in the administration and setting of policies was needed.

Production and Marketing Administration -

Agricultural Conservation Program

Of the 2,347 counties reporting on the PMA, 1,459 made special mention of the agricultural conservation program, and practically all of these made recommendations concerning it. Among these 1,459 counties were 819 that expressed approval of the PMA as a whole or of the agricultural conservation phase, including the 440 that took occasion to make separate favorable mention of the ACP. In contrast, three expressed general dissatisfaction with the ACP, one with certain phases of it, and 24 counties proposed discontinuance of the program and two others discontinuance unless some change was made.

There were 605 counties which included in their reports recommendations on the coverage of the program. Of these, 158 recommended that the funds or appropriations should be expanded, and 65 said the program should be expanded to include a greater variety of practices or more farmers, 39 to cover new practices, and 36 for permanent practices. Ten counties stated that the program should be generally curtailed, while 36 said specific parts of the program should be curtailed. The conservation practices which were most frequently recommended to be expanded were weed and brush control, pasture improvement, and the fertilization of hay, pasture and cover crops.

In 516 counties recommendations for changing the procedures and regulations were made. It was thought in 105 counties that the rules pertaining to the allocation of funds to farms should be changed, while 106 thought PMA should speed up the payments for practices carried out. Reports from 62 counties said that policy determination at the local level pertaining to all practices should be increased. In 100 counties it was thought that the

regulations should be changed for fertilizing practices and in 72 for weeding practices.

Of the services in the ACP which were discussed by 282 counties, 94 said to expand soil testing, and 71 said to expand the use of purchase orders. Other activities mentioned as needing expansion included information, demonstration, and inspection.

The principal recommendations with respect to organization and management were that the program year be changed or the program announced at an earlier date (in 74 counties) and that quicker delivery be made on materials such as lime and fertilizer (in 50 counties).

A great variety of recommendations was made concerning ACP practice payments in the 437 county reports covering this topic. A reduction in the maximum limit on payments was recommended in 89 counties, more than made any other single recommendation in this field. A continuation of the present maximum payment limit was desired in 33 counties, while in 15 it was felt that the present limit should be raised or removed. An increase in payments in general was proposed in 63 counties, and many others proposed increases in the payments for specific practices. On the other hand, 13 proposed a reduction in payments in general, and about half this number a reduction for specific practices. A desire for an increase in payments for small or run-down farms was indicated in 54 counties, but in 37 it was proposed to eliminate the present small payment increases. In 54 reports either elimination of payments for temporary practices or the making of payments only for permanent practices was recommended.

Production and Marketing Administration - Committees

The administration of the programs of the PMA by county and community committees elected by the farmers and by State Committees appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture was discussed in 616 county reports. In 130 reports, general approval of the committee system was stated, while two counties expressed a general dissatisfaction with the system, and two suggested that the use of farmers to administer programs be discontinued unless some changes were made. In 156 counties it was felt that PMA State, county and community committeemen should have more local authority to administer programs and determine policies.

In the discussion of funds for county and community committeemen there was a diversity of opinion. In 53 reports it was recommended that funds for county committees be increased, while 12 said not to increase them. It was recommended in 64 counties that community committee funds be increased, but 47 thought they should not be increased.

It was recommended in 24 reports that county committees should spend more time in the field or increase their services in some way, and 55 made the same recommendation for community committeemen.

The term of office of the county committees came in for comment in 64 counties, all of which wanted the term of office lengthened in some manner. In 20 counties the same recommendation was made with respect to community committeemen.

There were 112 counties which were concerned about the method of selecting State committeemen. They thought they should not be appointed but

should be elected by county committees, county delegates, or farmers, and in 41 counties it was felt that the community committeemen should be given more training.

Production and Marketing Administration -

Commodity Credit Corporation

While many of the county reports contained comments and recommendations about the functions of the Commodity Credit Corporation, only 398 counties specifically related their discussions to the Corporation. Of these, 399 approved in general what the Corporation was doing, while four recommended that the Corporation or its functions be discontinued.

In 91 counties it was recommended that the Corporation encourage the expansion and construction of on-the-farm and commercial storage facilities, and in about half this many counties specific suggestions were made with respect to warehouse or storage facility loans.

Production and Marketing Administration

Price Support Program

The 1,163 counties commenting upon price support activities appear to place the Price Support Program second only to the Agricultural Conservation Program as the most interesting of the PMA functions. Among these 1,163 counties, 739 either expressed general approval of PMA programs as a whole or of the price support phase, including 450 counties that particularly pointed out their approval of the Price Support Program. In contrast, some counties registered disapproval. These included 14 that expressed general dissatisfaction, six that were dissatisfied with some phases, four that proposed discontinuance unless some changes were made, and 32 that recommended discontinuance of the Price Support Program as a whole or in their counties.

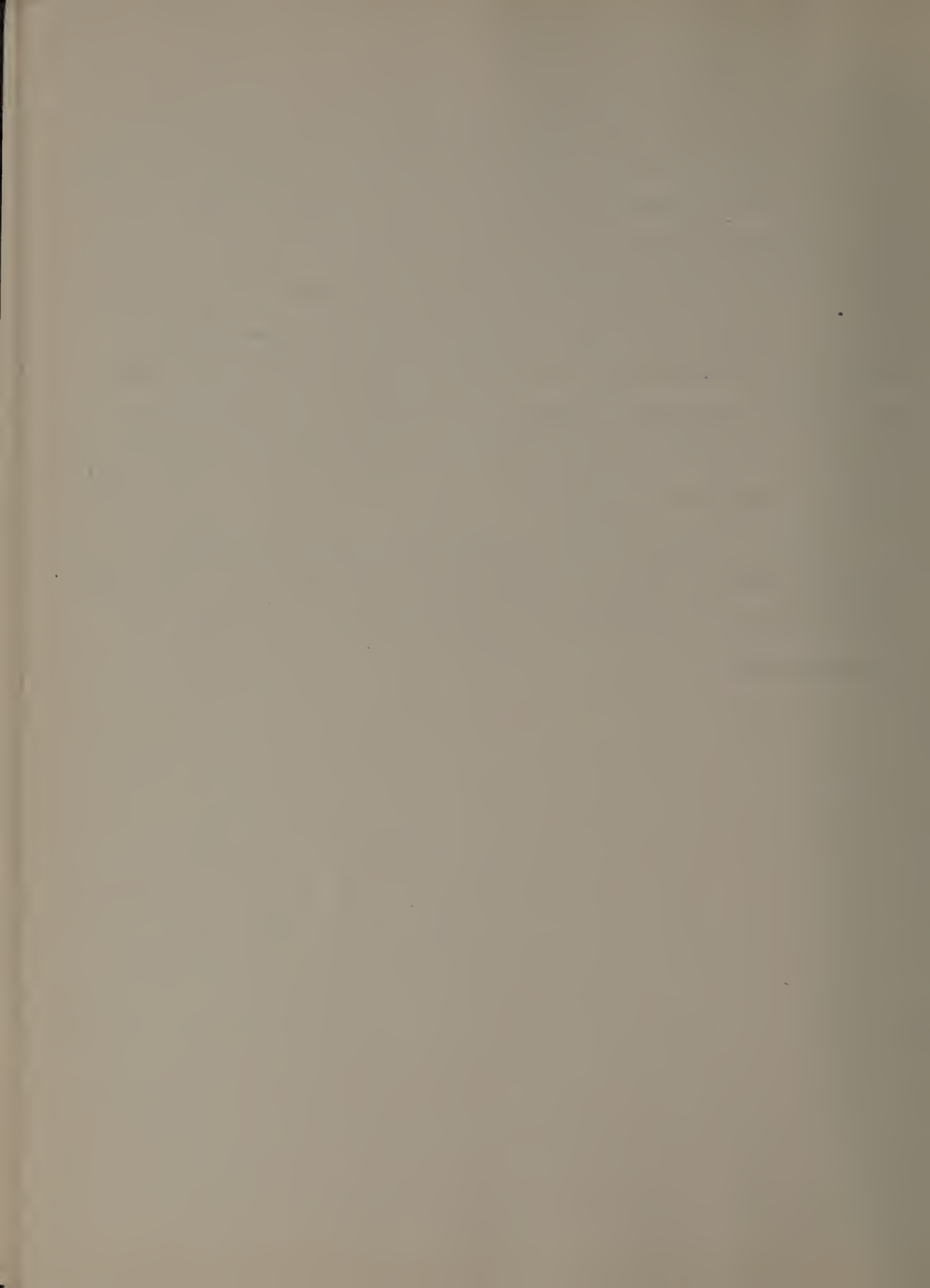
Among 306 counties that discussed direct payments and subsidies, 32 approved direct payments while 205 opposed them, and 66 opposed all subsidies.

Of the 463 county reports that contained recommendations on setting support prices, 131 recommended that the basis for parity should be revised. Some said to include labor costs, some wanted increased efficiency of production included, and others said it should be based on the last 10 years.

Without reference to any specific crops, 171 counties proposed setting support prices at 100 percent of parity. Also 53 counties indicated that prices of all commodities should be supported at 100 percent of parity. In addition, 44 counties named specific commodities or groups of commodities, such as wheat, grain, cotton, etc. that should be supported at 100 percent of parity, 27 proposed this level of support under specified conditions, and 26 proposed the 100 percent level for basic commodities.

Only 22 counties recommended supports at 90 percent of parity without specifying whether it should apply to all commodities or specified commodities, 13 said support all commodities, and 17 the basic commodities at this level, and 34 proposed supporting specified crops at 90 percent of parity. Also 71 county reports contained recommendations for price supports at levels other than 90 or 100 percent of parity. The inclusion of all commodities under whatever level of price support was authorized, was proposed in 53 counties, the inclusion of specified commodities in 35 counties, and of perishables in 27, while in 27 counties it was proposed that certain commodities or types of farmers be excluded from coverage.

Of the 111 counties making recommendations on a maximum payment, 67 said there should be while 47 said there should not be a maximum. Recommendations in 89 reports also indicated a desire to have the price support rate announced earlier.



Production and Marketing Administration -

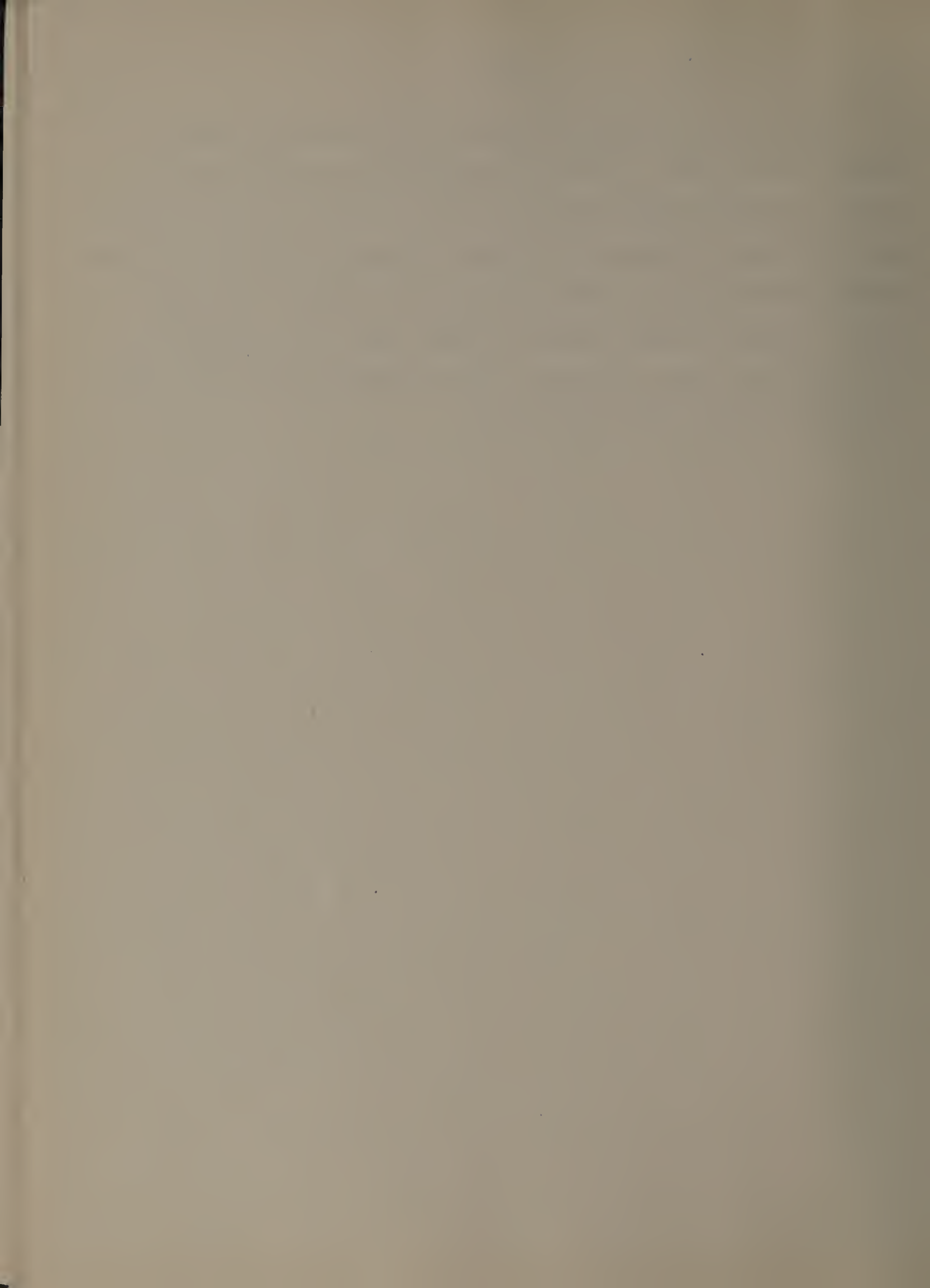
Production Adjustment

Practically all of the 736 county reports that mentioned the production adjustment program contained comments or recommendations. A total of 433 reports gave approval to the PMA as a whole or the production adjustment plan specifically, while 13 recommended that the program be discontinued, and six and seven reports respectively said there was general dissatisfaction with the program or general dissatisfaction with some phase of it.

As would be expected, the greatest number of comments and recommendations concerned the method of establishing acreage allotments and administering marketing quotas. Of the 433 which commented, 151 thought the allotment system should be improved but made no specific suggestions as to how or on what commodities. However, 31 counties specifically mentioned the allotment system for cotton, 12 mentioned tobacco, and 10 mentioned wheat or peanuts.

The counties were divided as to whether allotments should be based on total cropland or historical crop acreage, with 35 expressing a preference for total cropland and 15 recommending historical crop acreage. There was considerable divergence of thinking as to which crops allotments and quotas should be applied. Twenty-four counties expressed the thought that they should apply only to basic crops, while 32 said they should apply to perishable commodities, and 18 wanted them on nonbasic storable commodities. Forty-eight counties said that marketing quotas should not be applied to perishable commodities, and 22 said not to apply quotas to storable nonbasic commodities. Seventy-two counties recommended establishing quotas on a quantity basis, and 37 counties recommended establishing them on an acreage basis.

With respect to planning, management, and personnel, 33 counties thought more or better and speedier information to farmers was needed, 6% counties wanted the acreage measurement system improved, 41 counties thought more flexibility was needed in the program, 44 counties thought the method of handling unused allotments needed improving, and 30 counties recommended tighter controls or stiffer penalties or both. Forty-three counties indicated that there should be increased policy determination at the local level concerning production adjustment programs.



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Production and Marketing Administration -

Other Programs

Several other programs administered by the FMA were commented on in a few countries. The most salient points brought out were as follows:

Defense Food - 140 commented, 89 expressed general approval, 2 expressed dissatisfaction, and 2 recommended discontinuing the program.

Foreign Purchase - 46 commented, and 29 expressed general approval.

International Commodity Agreement - 103 commented, and 51 expressed general approval.

Marketing Agreement and Order - 111 commented, 61 expressed general approval, 1 registered dissatisfaction, and 1 recommended that the program be discontinued.

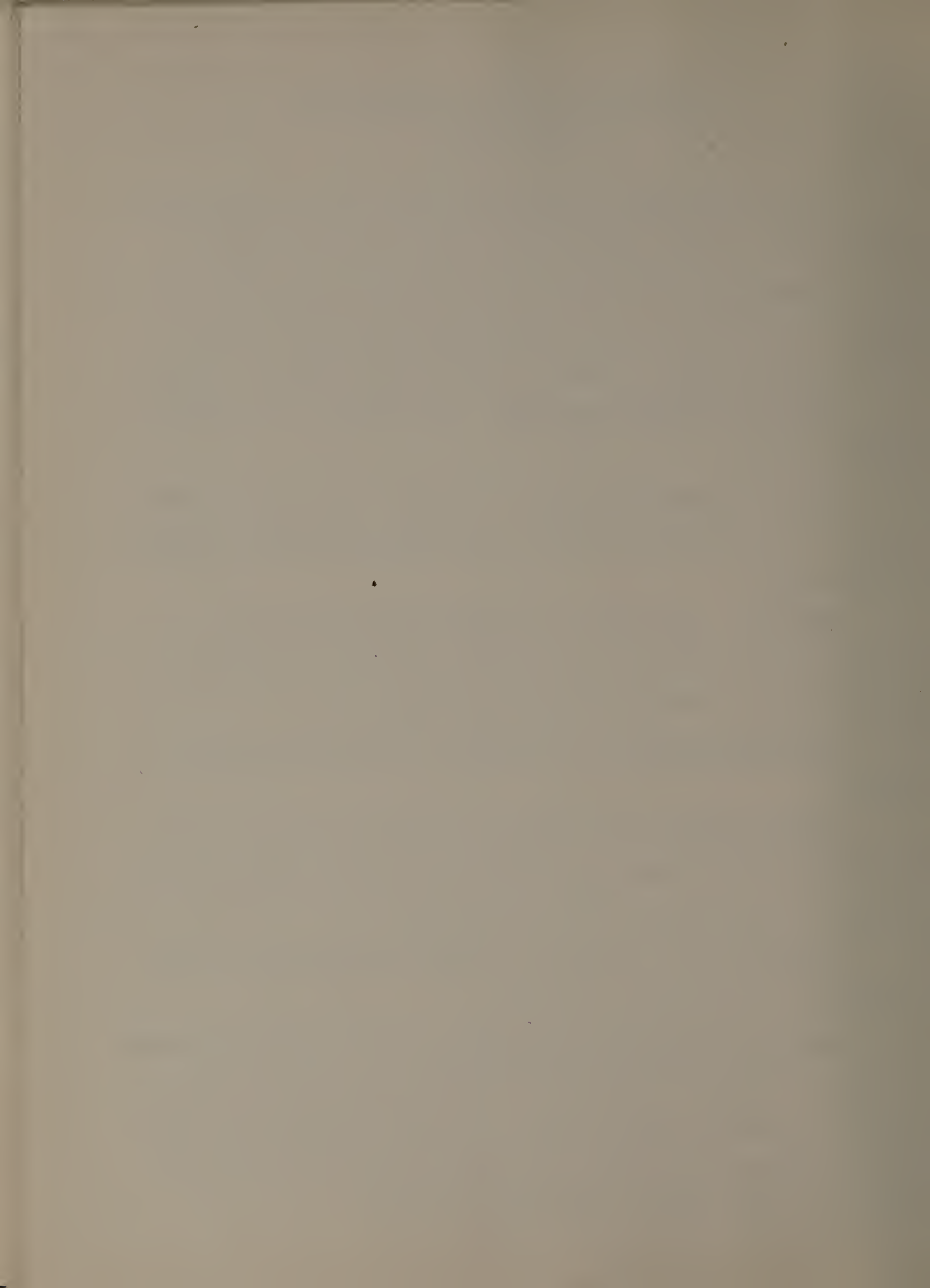
Market News - 131 commented, 74 expressed general approval, 3 recommended discontinuance, 24 recommended expansion, and 23 indicated a need for quicker, better-timed or more comprehensive news.

Market Regulatory Laws - 135 commented, and 86 expressed general approval.

Marketing Research - 137 commented, 66 expressed general approval, 2 recommended that the program be discontinued, and 35 recommended expansion to give more information on storage and marketing.

School Lunch - 106 commented, 77 expressed general approval, and 24 recommended that the program be expanded.

Standardization, Grading and Inspection - 161 commented, 69 expressed approval, 19 (without specifying a commodity) proposed improvement and expansion of grading and inspection work, 1 expressed dissatisfaction, 1 proposed discontinuance, 18 wanted a local cotton grader, and 13 thought the information program should be emphasized and expanded.



State Matched Funds - 97 commented, 52 expressed general approval, and 2 recommended discontinuance.

Sugar Production and Marketing - 109 commented, 45 expressed general approval, 1 registered dissatisfaction, and 1 recommended discontinuance.

Supply - 43 commented, and 25 expressed general approval.

Surplus Removal, Export and Diversion - 119 commented, 60 expressed general approval, and 1 indicated dissatisfaction.

Transportation Rates and Services - 97 commented, 57 expressed general approval, and 1 said discontinue the program.

Rural Electrification Administration

A total of 1,696 county reports mentioned the Rural Electrification Administration, and 1,469 of these reports contained comments or recommendations about some phase of the program. General approval or recommendations for continuance of the program with or without some change was expressed by 1,239 of the 1,469 counties. Two counties expressed general dissatisfaction with certain parts of the program, and two counties asked for discontinuance of the program.

Under coverage of the program, 491 counties made some comment. Unspecified expansion was called for by 123 counties, expansion and speed-up of the electrical program by 115 counties, while 301 counties asked for expansion of the telephone program. Forty-three counties were recorded as wanting the telephone program accelerated.

In the field of organization and management, 39 counties out of 125 commenting expressed the view that REA (or cooperatives) should generate power and eight counties indicated that REA (or cooperatives) should operate transmission lines. A contrary view was expressed by 11 counties whose reports indicated that private industry should generate power or that REA facilities should be sold to private industry and not compete with it. Specific suggestions for increasing efficiency, such as elimination of red tape, simplification of procedures, etc. were expressed by 29 counties.

Provision for more local authority and decision was requested by 34 counties, while 16 said there was enough local control.

With respect to service and rates, 247 counties had some comment or recommendation to make. Improved service or more personnel was requested by

67 of these counties, and 18 specifically mentioned these items in connection with the telephone program. Seventy-eight counties asked for more power, and 66 expressed a desire for lower rates. Increased benefits for cooperatives such as receiving their share of power from Government dams and receiving power on a preference basis was asked for by 25 counties.

A desire for an increase in the education and publicity about the program in general was expressed by 31 counties, while 16 specifically mentioned the telephone program.

Soil Conservation Service

There were 2,040 county reports which referred to the Soil Conservation Service, 1,094 of them making recommendations with respect to its program. Of these, 1,496 expressed general approval of the program. They thought the program was good, necessary, valuable or excellent, or that the program should be continued either with or without change. Five counties expressed a general dissatisfaction with the program, 12 recommended that the program be discontinued, and 1 that it be discontinued unless some changes were made.

Only 240 counties reported on program coverage, but of these 148 requested that the program be expanded, or that services or farmer participation be expanded. Thirty-four counties wanted the program expanded into specific counties, and 54 reports proposed that funds should be increased.

With respect to services rendered, there were 565 comments or suggestions including 275 to the effect that more staff was needed for on-farm visits and assistance to farmers in planning practices. There were 105 counties which recommended that the technical staff be increased, 99 that wanted the Soil Conservation Service to either provide or rent at low cost equipment which could be used for on-farm assistance, 61 counties that wanted land capability maps increased or provided, and 56 that proposed the provision of technical guides or technical assistance for various specific purposes. From 30 to 50 made such proposals as increased use of soil testing, more attention to watersheds, and improvement of farm conservation plans and soil surveys.

Of the 134 counties which commented on conservation practices, 39 suggested improving and expanding drainage, 28 wanted tree planting, including growing of nursery seedlings improved and expanded, and 21 recommended that

grassland pasture and range practices be improved and that dams and other flood control measures be expanded.

Of the 180 reports that discussed district regulations or policy determination, 72 recommended an increase in planning and policy determination at the local level, while a little less than half this many opposed compulsory aspects of the program.

Of the 81 counties commenting on research, 58 were of the opinion that the research program should be enlarged. Among the 113 counties commenting on retirement of submarginal land, 87 expressed disapproval of Government acquiring more land or suggested that it sell the land it now has, while 8 counties approved land acquisition by the Government. Flood control activities of the agency were commented on in 142 reports, with 60 recommending expansion of the program, 25 wanted more flood control dams of various types, 27 expressed the opinion that watershed surveys should be expanded, and 19 that upstream flood control practices should be stressed.

Among the 192 counties commenting upon information and education, 134 felt that more information should be given farmers on specific farm practices, 36 wanted non-farm groups better informed, and 37 thought a better job should be done of selling owners and operators on their responsibility to cooperate in soil conservation.

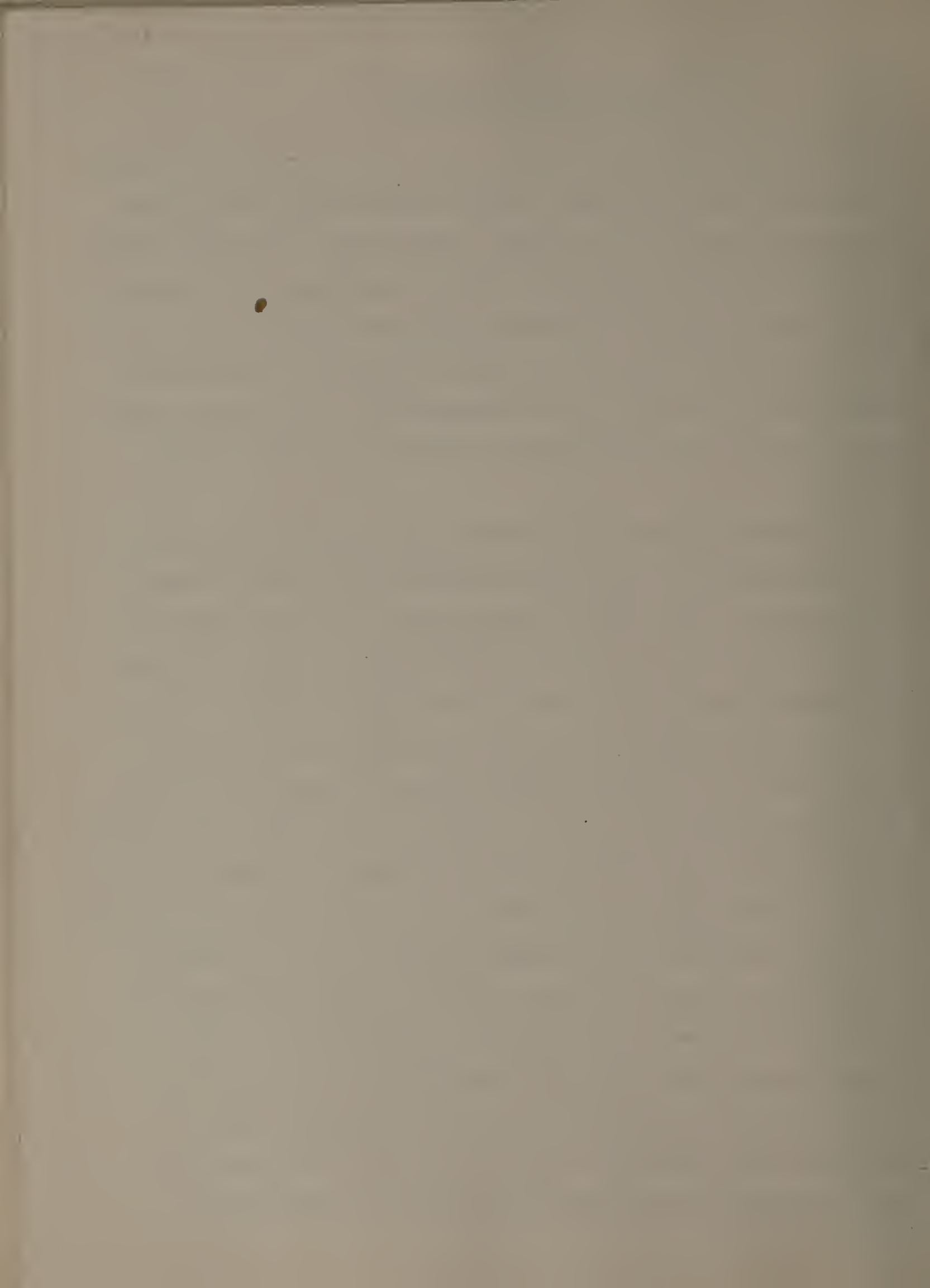
In the field of organization and management, 244 counties had suggestions or comments. Of these, 62 proposed speeding up the service, 55 said they preferred assistance on an individual plan rather than group work, while 72 others felt that the neighborhood group plan was best.

Family Farm Policy Review

While less than one out of five county reports contained any reference to the family farm policy review, a number of interesting and quite diverse comments were made about this activity. In 224 counties (about eight percent of those reporting, and nearly half of the 478 commenting on the family farm policy review) the people attending the meetings indicated a feeling that not enough time had been allowed for the review. The next most frequently made comment, made in 89 counties, was the expression of a belief that the review came at the wrong time of year when many farmers were too busy to attend meetings.

Statements approving the family farm policy review or saying that it was a proper function of the United States Department of Agriculture were contained in 62 reports, while 14 counties either approved more family farm policy review meetings or recommended that the review be held annually, and nine expressed more specific favorable comments about the review.

Almost two percent of the counties (47) recommended that all the recommendations in the family farm policy review be rejected, and about the same number (49) felt that it did not represent a cross-section of all farmers. An opinion that the United States Department of Agriculture should not review itself or that it did not have authority to do so was expressed in 46 counties. The review was criticized on the grounds of being too big, too cumbersome, too ambiguous, too wordy, or covering too large a scope in 36 counties and in about the same number of counties (38) on political grounds. In 28 counties the idea of the review was rejected, in 25 a more detailed and extended study of the programs and agencies was recommended, but not necessarily by the Department, and in 24 counties it was felt that the views of farmers should have been obtained through farm organizations.



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United States Department of Agriculture

County reports on the Family Farm Policy Review did not reflect a general pattern of discussion about the Department as an entity but were largely confined to an agency or program basis. However, quite a few comments and recommendations were made which had Department-wide application. In addition, comments and recommendations frequently were made which could not properly be included in the tables for a particular agency since the county report did not make clear what, if any specific agency the discussion group had in mind. Also, in other cases two or more agencies were mentioned. In all of these instances, which involved 1,427 county reports, comments and recommendations have been incorporated in the Department table.

Almost one-third of the counties commenting took occasion to express general or implied approval of the Department's programs, and 135 counties indicated that no new programs were needed. About two percent of the counties commenting on the Department as a whole proposed that Congress should legislate any changes, that they were opposed to regimentation or dictatorial and meddling policies, and that programs of the Department were too socialistic or that socialism should be barred from the Department.

About 200 of the county reports had something to say about the need for cooperation or coordination with respect to certain named agencies such as SCS and ACP and FGA and FHA. Another 112 reports mentioned the need for coordination and cooperation without identifying agencies, and 69 made similar comments with respect to relations between the Department and States, counties, land grant colleges, etc.

There were 215 county reports which mentioned overlapping or duplication of activities between Department agencies, and 136 counties asked for

elimination of such overlapping or duplication without specifying agencies, while 72 counties specifically mentioned agencies such as FCA and FHA, PMA and SCS, and information activities.

About one-third of the reports which contained comments about the Department as a whole expressed some feeling about consolidation of agencies or a continuation of specific functions. There were 186 reports which contained the view that specific agencies such as SCS and ACP and FCA and FHA should be consolidated. Eighty-six mentioned the desirability of combining specific functions such as loan activities, and 81 asked for agency consolidation without specifying the agencies. Housing of Department agencies in one building was called for in 135 county reports.

In the field of information and education, 154 of the 222 county reports containing comments on the subject expressed the need for more or better information on Department programs, and 50 for more or better educational programs.

Under a heading of general policies, funds and personnel, there was a wide variety of comments and recommendations contained in the 424 county reports which had something to say on these subjects. The largest grouping was the 109 reports which expressed the idea that local people should have more influence in establishing Department policies or that there should be more decentralization of Department activities.

United States Government

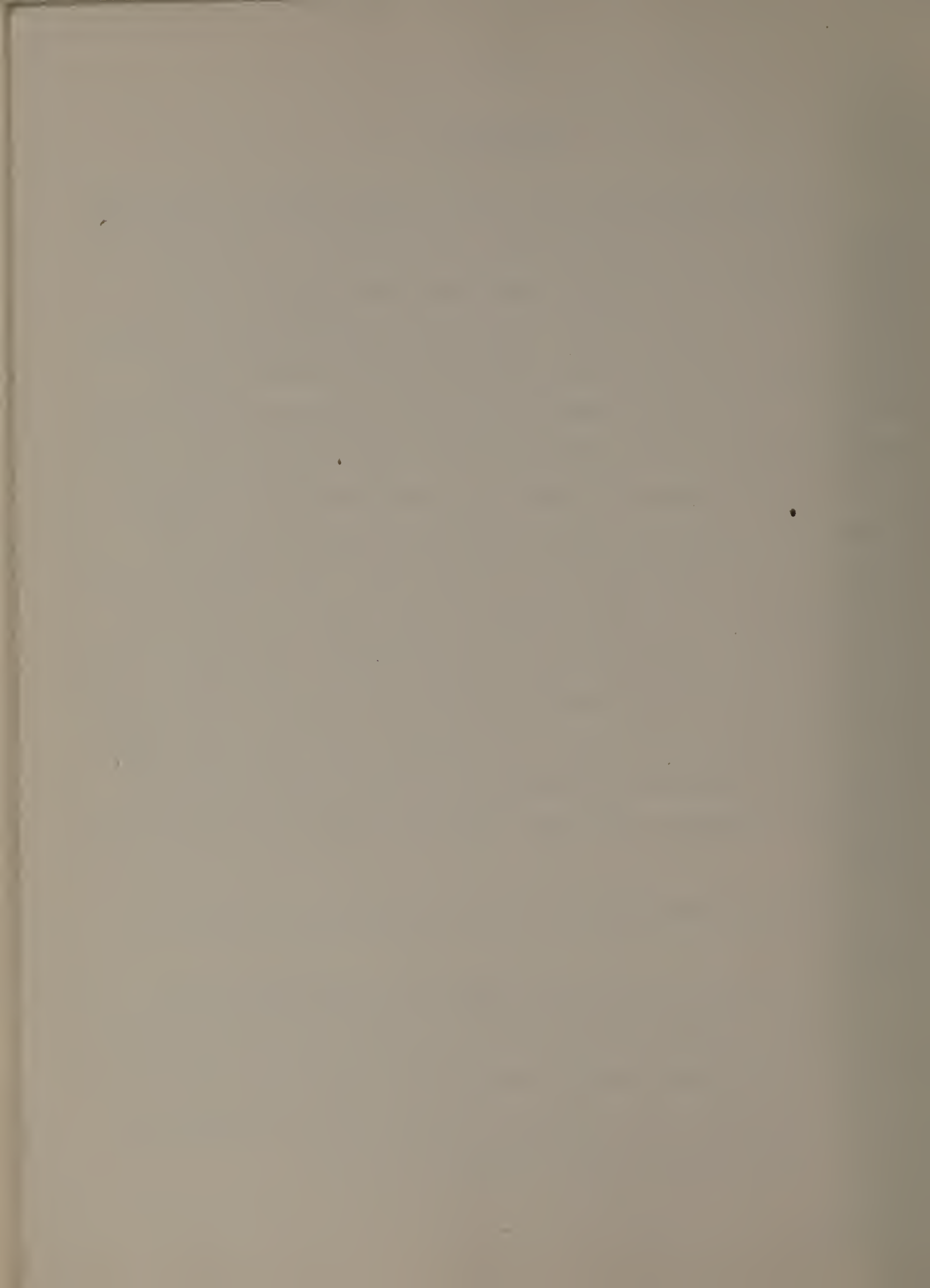
Some reports contained recommendations or comments with respect to Governmental activities that lie outside of the programs administered by the Department of Agriculture. Foremost among these were comments showing general approval of vocational agricultural training made by 96 counties and recommendations in 57 reports that this program be expanded. Also suggestions were made in 45 counties for expanding other specific programs or adding public services. Elimination of duplication between the programs of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior through better coordination or consolidation under one agency was recommended in 21 counties. Suggestions were made in 23 counties on research or changes in the present system of taxation, in 27 that Government spending should be cut, duplication eliminated and other economies effected, and in 20 counties opposition to price ceilings or roll-backs was indicated.

Conclusions

The Family Farm Policy Review already has been effective in stimulating inquiry about and a better understanding of the Department's programs and the interrelationship of the agencies administering those programs. This was brought about in a number of ways. There was a wide dissemination of information in pamphlets and news releases preparatory to the holding of review meetings. Many planning meetings were held by the various Agricultural Mobilization Committees at State and county levels to plan for the review. Copies of the Provisional Report were studied by committee members and discussion leaders. The meetings were held and produced discussions in most of the counties and many communities across the whole nation. Some controversy about the appropriateness of the review resulted, but this appears to have had the effect of further stimulating interest and participation in the review. Finally, county and State reports were written covering the discussions at the meetings. All of the activities of the review have compelled a more comprehensive understanding of the structure of the Department and of its program by employees and also have stimulated a much wider understanding on the part of farmers and others.

Several conclusions that may be drawn from the results of the review follow:

1. The review produced strong evidence that many farmers have not been well informed concerning the services of some of the agencies and that many Department employees, even though they knew the programs of their own agencies very well, were not well informed about the program of the Department as a whole.



2. In a large number of counties it was recommended that the Department programs, agency by agency, be continued, with or without some changes, indicating a direct or implied approval of present programs. This should not be surprising and should have been expected since all of the programs have resulted from legislative enactments through the democratic processes of our Government.
3. There was a large number and great variety of suggestions and recommendations for the expansion or improvement of existing programs. This may in part reflect the wide variation in agricultural problems from area to area in a country as large as ours. Although for the country as a whole there was a wide range in the recommendations, individual counties, as a rule, did not make recommendations with respect to all of the agricultural programs being carried out in their counties. This may indicate that there was not enough time at the meetings to discuss all of the programs in one session.
4. There was a large general request for more and better information about the services of the Department, for both urban and rural people.
5. A considerable sentiment for more decentralization of authority and responsibility to the State and county level ran through all of the reports.
6. In many counties the discussions had to do with how the Department could be of greater help to all farmers in general rather than with the more precise topic of how its programs could best

be adapted to help farm families on family farms. To the extent that this was true the real goal of the review was overlooked.

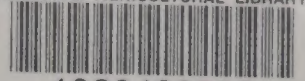
Future Reviews

A review of the effectiveness of Department programs should be made periodically, perhaps annually. If, however, another review of this kind is undertaken, it should be made at a time when most farmers can more easily leave their farms to attend meetings. A considerable amount of widespread criticism appears to make a valid case that the timing of the review conflicted in most areas with harvest season. While it may not be possible to find a perfect season, more care should be used to select a season in least conflict with farmers' work.

Since this is important work and the results may have far reaching effect in shaping future activities of the Department, more time should be allowed for making the review and writing the reports.

If information such as the Provisional Report is again sent to the field, recommendations should not be combined with an explanation of the Department programs. Such recommendations too often are misinterpreted as being something the Department is trying to sell.

In the case of another review, more consideration should be given to the type of analysis and the use to be made of the material obtained before the review is launched. If properly done, this would produce recommendations and suggestions more specifically addressed to problems that should receive attention and would assist in its manageability for summarization. It is recommended that any future reviews incorporate both the public meeting technique and the opportunity for individual farmers to express their views by means of responding to



carefully designed questions or topics relating to Department programs. Reports of the meetings should to the extent possible be requested to follow an outline provided to discussion leaders before the meetings are held.

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